

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST LAFAYETTE TREE FRIENDS CREATE TREE SWEATERS

West Lafayette, Ind.—December 7, 2015. To protect newly planted trees from vandalism, the West Lafayette Tree Friends (WLTF) will wrap dozens of these young trees with bright yarn sweaters, also known as yarn-bombing, on Tuesday, December 8th.

Signs attached to the sweaters inform passers-by that these trees matter and need protection. The signs carry messages, such as “Don’t break my trunk when you get drunk,” or “These trees are loved by little old ladies with knitting needles...and they’re not afraid to use them,” to remind people that citizens put in considerable effort to get these trees planted. The sweaters are knitted by WLTF volunteers and friends as part of their year-round work of pruning, planting, protecting and fund-raising. Currently, WLTF is in the midst of fund-raising to replace broken trees and dead trees that have succumbed to emerald ash borer.

“Yarn-bombing is a fun way to get the word out that we care about these trees. In the past, we’ve frequently seen pedestrians reading the tags and so far—in the last few years—those trees with sweaters have not been broken,” explains Beverly Shaw, West Lafayette Greenspace Administrator.

Lynn Layden, Chair of the West Lafayette Tree Friends, adds, “Trees capture stormwater, cool the air, shade the sidewalks and beautify our community. Each one costs

about \$200 so it's upsetting when one is broken. We are losing many trees to emerald ash borer so it's important to let these young trees grow."

To learn more about the WLTF and sign up for their new bimonthly e-newsletter, go to www.wltreefriends.wordpress.com. To make donations to the WLTF fund-raising initiative, send checks, made payable to the West Lafayette Tree Friends, to West Lafayette Tree Friends, 1101 Kalberer Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

